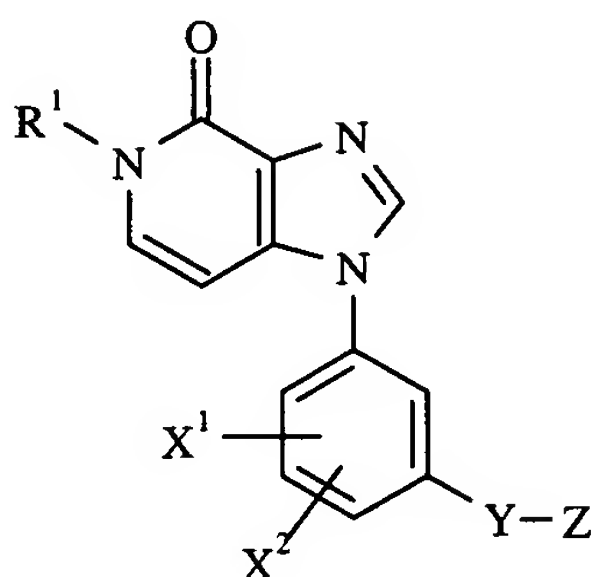


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (New) A compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein:

X¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

X² represents hydrogen or halogen;

Y represents a chemical bond, an oxygen atom, or a -NH- linkage;

Z represents a group selected from phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl and tetrazolyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, adamantyl, phenyl, halogen, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ aminoalkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, aryloxy, keto, C₁₋₃ alkylenedioxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, aminocarbonyloxy, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio,

C₁₋₆ alkylsulphinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, arylsulphonyl, -NR^vR^w, -NR^vCOR^w, -NR^vCO₂R^w, -NR^vSO₂R^w, -CH₂NR^vSO₂R^w, -NHCONR^vR^w, -CONR^vR^w, -SO₂NR^vR^w and -CH₂SO₂NR^vR^w, in which R^v and R^w independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, phenyl or phenyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R¹ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, trifluoromethyl, -SO₂R^a, -SO₂NR^aR^b, -COR^a, -CO₂R^a or -CONR^aR^b; and

R^a and R^b independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (New) The compound of Claim 11 wherein X¹ is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methoxy.

13. (New) The compound of Claim 11 wherein X² is hydrogen or fluoro.

14. (New) The compound of Claim 11 wherein Z is a group selected from phenyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl and tetrazolyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, adamantyl, phenyl, halogen, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ aminoalkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, aryloxy, keto, C₁₋₃ alkylenedioxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, aminocarbonyloxy, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, arylsulphonyl, -NR^vR^w, -NR^vCOR^w, -NR^vCO₂R^w, -NR^vSO₂R^w, -CH₂NR^vSO₂R^w, -NHCONR^vR^w, -CONR^vR^w, -SO₂NR^vR^w and -CH₂SO₂NR^vR^w, in which R^v and R^w independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, phenyl or phenyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl.

15. (New) The compound of Claim 11 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₆ alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, trifluoromethyl, -COR^a or -CO₂R^a.

16. (New) The compound of Claim 15 wherein R^a is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl.

17. (New) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

3'-(5-methyl-4-oxo-4,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-1-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;
1-[4-fluoro-3-(5-fluoropyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-5-methyl-1,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-4-one;
5,2'-difluoro-5'-(5-methyl-4-oxo-4,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-1-yl)-biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;
1-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-5-methyl-1,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-4-one;
5-methyl-1-(2,2',3'-trifluorobiphenyl-5-yl)-1,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-4-one;
4,2'-difluoro-5'-(5-methyl-4-oxo-4,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-1-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

18. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.